

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

JUN 08 2006

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Brian Jones et al.	Examiner:	Wilson W. Tsui
Serial No.:	10/731,242	Group Art Unit:	2178
Filed:	December 9, 2003	Docket No.:	60001.296US11
Title:	STORING DOCUMENT HEADER AND FOOTER INFORMATION IN A MARKUP LANGUAGE DOCUMENT		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.6(d): I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile to (571) 273-8300, Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Attn: Examiner Wilson W. Tsui, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 8, 2006.

By: 
Name: Tracy Gutscher

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c))

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Attn: Examiner Wilson W. Tsui
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This statement should be considered because it is submitted after the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits or a first Office Action after filing a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, but before the mailing date of: i) a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113; ii) a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311; or iii) an action that otherwise closes prosecution on the application. Please charge Deposit Account No. 13, 2725 in the amount of \$180 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) for filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

At least some of the features disclosed in the patent application identified above (hereinafter "the Application") may have been included in a beta release of Microsoft Office software, which occurred in October 2002. Therefore, it is possible some of the system code incorporating the described implementations was disclosed to a controlled set of users more than one year before the filing date of the Application. This beta release of the Office software, which was conducted for testing purposes, included approximately five thousand users. It is

06/09/2006 AKELECH1 00000031 132725 10731242

01 FC:1806 180.00 DA

significant to note that the beta release was distributed to a fixed number of users, and each user acknowledged a Microsoft non-disclosure agreement. The non-disclosure agreement included the following clause:

7. CONFIDENTIALITY. The Product, including its existence and features, and related information are proprietary and confidential information to Microsoft and its suppliers. Recipient agrees not to disclose or provide the Product, documentation, or any related information (including the Product features or the results of use or testing) to any third party, prior to commercial release of the Product. However, Recipient may disclose confidential information in accordance with judicial or other governmental order, provided Recipient shall give Microsoft reasonable written notice prior to such disclosure and shall comply with any applicable protective order or equivalent. Further, Recipient shall not be liable to Microsoft for disclosure of information which Recipient can prove (a) is already known to Recipient without an obligation to maintain the same as confidential; (b) becomes publicly known through no wrongful act of Recipient; (c) is rightfully received from a third party without breach of an obligation of confidentiality owed to Microsoft; or (d) is independently developed by Recipient. The obligations of this Section 7 are in addition to the terms of any confidentiality or non-disclosure agreement that may exist between Microsoft and Recipient.

Since the beta release was distributed to a fixed number of users that acknowledged the above confidentiality clause, Applicants believe submission of the claims in the Application is proper.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the information contained herein is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the present Information Disclosure Statement, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.


Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD, LLC

Date: June 8 2006

MERCHANT & GOULD, LLC
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(404) 954-5100


Ryan T. Grace
Reg. No. 52,956

27488

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE